

Precious Nonsense

NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWESTERN GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY
June 2002 - Issue 64

*When but a maid of fifteen year, Unsought -- unplighted--
Short-petticoated -- and, I fear, Still shorter--sighted*

My, that sounds ominous! It isn't meant to be, any more than the use of plain return address labels, instead of the usual MGS heading. (I just wound up with a stack of them, and hated to let them go to waste. We'll probably have another mailing with them: there's still a big stack!) No, it just means that seventeen years ago, when the Midwestern Gilbert and Sullivan Society started, I didn't realize putting together a newsletter could take so long. (It also means that about twelve years of yard work and house repair are catching up with me: thank you, as always, for your patience! And does anyone know any quick and effective way to clean a wooden deck that doesn't require renting a pressure sprayer? I shouldn't be sorry to learn it!) Let me know if you're interested: I'll be glad to write you a Christmas letter about what all's been going on (a Christmas-in-July letter, maybe). And if you aren't, I don't blame you.

But before we go further, have we (or more accurately, The American Concert Band / Detroit Concert Band) got something for you (if you have a record player)! Several months ago, Mary Lou Hornberger of the Concert Band sent the MGS a boxful of LP recordings of their album *Through the Years with Sousa, Volume 10* of their series of recordings of all the marches of John Philip Sousa. This particular record is the one that includes Sousa's *Mikado* March, based on themes from the opera (but it has a lot of other "marchable" marches, too, which makes it even more fun to listen to). They were given to the MGS to distribute, so we're going to do that!

SO! Until they're gone, if you would like a Long-Play Stereo Phonograph Record of the Detroit Concert Band's *Through the Years with Sousa*, send the MGS a self-addressed mailing label and I'll send you one. Or e-mail me if you'd prefer. I don't know how much it'll cost to mail, so you can reimburse the shipping when the record shows up. It shouldn't cost more than \$4.00.

This offer is only good as long as there are records to send, so make your request quickly!

Otherwise, another delay has been that we haven't had much in the article line to put in. So, we could use some material. We're currently working on putting together a Big Quiz, so *that* ought to be something to look forward to. In the meantime, let's see what we *do* have!

Oh, Members, How Say You, What is it You've Done?

We were very sorry to learn of the deaths of two members of the MGS: **Constance Thompson**, of Concord, California, who we lost August 27, 2001; and **Corisande Anderson**, who passed away January 5th of this year. Corisande Anderson was always a pleasure, and Connie Thompson was one of the earliest members of the Midwestern Gilbert and Sullivan Society, and a great reporter of the activities of the Lamplighters of San Francisco. Among her other contributions, she was the one who provided us with the text of the Campbell's Soup commercial that nearly featured Martyn Green singing the names of their products to the tune of the Major General's song. That is to say, a sample commercial was recorded, but never used. Both members will be missed.

Congratulations to **Lisa Bower** for her critically acclaimed costuming of Light Opera Works' production of *Kismet*. One of the Evanston (IL) papers gave her quite a nice write-up. We wish her the best in her future

endeavors.

Tom Drucker, lately of Pennsylvania, has come closer to the Midwest, though not to be closer to the "stomping ground" of the Midwestern Gilbert and Sullivan Society. He has transferred his pedagogic endeavors to the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater. We're always glad to have such interesting people in the "neighborhood."

And we send continued thanks to **Arthur Robinson**, for his work on all those birthday cards! We got an e-mail that said:

Dear Secretary/Archivist:

My husband and I would like to thank you for the greeting cards we received this month in honor of our birthdays. The Midwestern Gilbert and Sullivan Society is fortunate to have faithful members who prepare the cards and send them out to reach the celebrants in time for their "Happy Days." The verses and thoughts inside the cards are great and always have something to do with G&S operas. We look forward each year to see what the illustration will be

and are always rewarded with something depicting a Gilbert&Sullivan effort which we appreciate. Keep up the good work and please thank those who work to greet us each year.

Yours for more G&S,
Carol Lee and David (Last name with held at request of members.)

Those faithful members are all Arthur Robinson, so he's the one we should be grateful to! Thanks again for all your help!

What Cheer! What Cheer! {Midwestern}

This year's G&S productions of the **Ohio Light Opera** include:

HMS Pinafore (June 15, 21*, 23*, 29*, July 11, 20, 25*, 31*, and August 6.)

Ruddigore (July 3*, 9*, 14*, 17, 20*, 26, August 1, and 6*), along with

Boccaccio (Libretto by F. Zell and Richard Genée / Music by Franz von Suppé. English translation by Quade Winter) {June 18*, 26*, July 6, 13*, 21*, August 2, and 8} *Giovanni Boccaccio is a poet and novelist in Florence who takes the plots of his tales of duped husbands and faithless women from his own life experience. Pietro, Prince of Palermo, arrives in Florence incognito to search out "real life." He befriends Boccaccio who leads the Prince on some wild excursions throughout Florence. At his marriage festivities with Fiametta, Pietro justifies Boccaccio's presence at the Tuscany court by announcing that he has been hired to write and stage entertainment for the royal betrothal. Boccaccio's entertainment takes the form of a moral commedia dell'arte which charms the Duke of Tuscany. The Duke sentences Boccaccio to life imprisonment as Fiamette's husband and is also appointed Poet Laureate to the Tuscan Court.*

The Cousin from Batavia (By Edward Künneke / English translation and Ohio Light Opera performance version by Richard Traubner) {July 24*, 27*, 30*, August 3, and 9) *The story, set in 1920s Holland, revolves around Julia and Hanna, two young women coming of age who have been searching for romance in their lives. Julia tells of her relationship with a childhood sweetheart. A stranger, who is thought to be Julia's young love, visits Julia and Hanna but is reluctant to reveal his identity. The two young ladies' intrigues are further complicated by the arrival of a second stranger. If you enjoy the lyric romance of Franz Lehár's music, you will be thrilled with the endearing score of Eduard Künneke's 'The Cousin from Batavia.;*

Sweethearts (Libretto and book by Harry B. Smith and Fred de Gresac / Music by Victor Herbert. New Ohio Light Opera Performance Version by Chris Flaharty and Quade Winter) {June 14, 16*, 20, 22*, 29, July 5*, 10*, 13, 16*, 24, August 1*, and 10*} June 2002

Blossom Time / Das Dremaiderlhaus (Libretto by Rudolph H. Bartsch Music by Franz Schubert arranged by Heinrich Berté. English translation and New Ohio Light Opera performance version by Richard Traubner) {June 25*, 28, July 7*, 18, 28*, 31, and August 10}. *Hannerl Tscholl helps her two sisters,*

Haiderl and Hederl, meet their boyfriends, Bruneder and Brinder, for a discreet rendezvous. During this arrangement, Hannerl meets Franz Schubert. Hannerl has warm feelings for the composer but the actress, Demoiselle Grisi, the jealous mistress of Schubert's poet friend Franz Schober, warns the girl against the womanizing Franz. Schubert writes a song to express his love for Hannerl and the easy-going Schober sings it to her. Hannerl, believing the feelings expressed in the song are Schober's, resounds by agreeing to marry him. Schubert is left at the final curtain with only music to console him.

Autumn Maneuvers / Ein Herbstmanöver (Libretto by Karl von Bakonyi and Robert Bodanzky / Music by Emmerich Kálmán/ English translation and New Ohio Light Opera performance version by Steven A. Daigle) {July 17*, 19, 23*, 27, August 3*, and 7*) *The story is set in Hungary at a country estate of the widow Baroness Risa von Marbach where she has given permission for the army to reside at her estate for autumn maneuvers. Lt. Lorenthly is pursued by the passionate Treska, his commanding officer's daughter, much to the army volunteer Marosi's jealous disapproval. The Baroness Rias and Lt. Lorenthly are in love with each other, but unable to admit it. In order to force a jealous reaction out of Risa, Lorenthly stages a marriage proposal to Treska. The romance and intrigue unfold when Rias and Lorenthly are reunited.*

Brigadoon (Musical play by Alan Lerner / Music by Frederick Loewe) {June 13, 15*, 19*, 22, 27, July 6*, 10, 12, 18*, 25, and August 7} *Americans Tommy Albright and Jeff Douglass are on a hunting trip in Scotland when they stumble upon a village that does not appear on the map. It is called Brigadoon. The town is under a spell, by which it appears on earth only once in a century and, at the end of the day will vanish into sleep for another hundred years.*

(Descriptions taken from the OLO's website.) Added benefits to the productions include:**Pre-Performance Lectures:** You'll appreciate and enjoy each show more if you come to the pre-performance commentaries presented every Friday and Saturday evening. No reservations necessary just be in Lean Lecture Room in Wishart Hall (adjacent to the theatre) at 7:00 p.m. and find out the story behind the story-with tips on the special pleasures of each show.

Individual Ticket Price (for all performances): Adults \$32.00, Students \$16.00 (Students are between 5 and 18. Children younger than 5 are probably not admitted, due to the constraints listed under "Decorum Reminders").

Ordering Tickets: The Ohio Light Opera accepts Visa, MasterCard, The Discover Card and all NOVUS Card brands. You may call (330) 263-2345, or write the box office at The Ohio Light Opera, The College of Wooster, Wooster, OH 44691. You may have your tickets mailed to you for an additional dollar. Allow two to four weeks for ticket order processing. No refunds. No cancellations. For Tickets Call (330) 263-2345 /email: OH_LT_OPERA@wooster.edu

Box Office Hours: Freedlander Theatre: From Monday, May 20 through Saturday, August 10, 2002 hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 12 noon to 3 p.m. Sunday,

and one hour prior to evening performances. You have the privilege of ONE EXCHANGE ONLY PER TICKET ORDER, subject to availability within the 2002 season. Exchanges may be made in person or by mail. There is a \$2.00 PER TICKET charge for exchanges. Tickets being exchanged have to be received in the ticket office no later than 48 hours prior to the performance date on the original tickets. No other exchanges are possible.

Unused Tickets: Ticket holders unable to use or exchange their tickets may notify the ticket office so that those tickets can be resold. Because of the demand for tickets for Ohio Light Opera performances, these "turn backs" make seats available to other music lovers and can provide additional income to the Opera. **Lost Tickets:** If you lose your original tickets, we can make duplicates for you.

Please Take Note: Freedlander Theatre is air conditioned. Some Ohio Light Opera patrons might like to bring a sweater or jacket to wear during the performance.

Decorum Reminders: Freedlander Theatre is an intimate space. Please keep in mind that talking during the overture and/or throughout the performance is distracting to fellow audience members as well as to the performing company. Also, please refrain from opening noisy candy or gum wrappers during the show. All performances begin promptly at 2:00 PM for matinees and 8:00 PM for evening performances. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of house management.

Now this is something of a departure: The University of Michigan G&S Society will be presenting a "G", rather than a "G&S" show this June. They will be presenting Gilbert's *Engaged* June 21-23 and 27-30, at the Macintosh Theatre in Ann Arbor. They are coordinating ticket sales themselves, so they warn their patrons that 1.) they can't take credit cards or phone orders: only mail orders. 2.) the theatre only seats 145, so include an alternate performance when ordering tickets. All tickets are \$15.00. 2:00 pm matinees are on June 23 and 30. For more information, rush a note to UMGASS Tickets; 911 North University, Ann Arbor, MI 49109.

What Cheer! What Cheer! {International}

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Nova Scotia has a new web page: <http://www.gandsnovascotia.ca/> They are celebrating our 25th anniversary by sponsoring several activities throughout the year. As a matter of fact, May 12-18, 2002, was declared Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Nova Scotia Week by John M. Hamm, Premier of Nova Scotia (see the proclamation at <http://www.gandsnovascotia.ca/Proclamation.gif>). Congratulations to them! We hear from Susan Woodbury of the group:

We are also hosting a G & S Singout July 19 to 21 in Halifax. Please take a look at our web page. There is a downloadable PDF file containing all the registration information. People are coming from various places in Canada, the US and even Europe. We would be delighted if you or some of your members were able to come.

Sounds like a great opportunity!

This is old news, but Interesting news. At <http://www.fordstheatre.org/Media/performance/pressRelease.gif>, the press release for Washington D.C.'s Ford Theatre announced that "FORD'S THEATRE Adds HOT MIKADO TO SPRING LINE UP"

Ford's Theatre is pleased to announce that the final production of its 2001-02 Season will be a reprise of its 1994 D.C. hit, *Hot Mikado*, which is scheduled to run from March 13 through June 2002. *Hot Mikado* had its world premiere at Ford's Theatre in 1986. Tickets go on sale on Monday, October 29, just in time for holiday gift giving.

"The creators have fashioned a deliriously upbeat, '40s-era musical out of Gilbert and Sullivan's most enduring operetta," said The Washington Post of Ford's 1994 production. "The most glorious aspect of this adaptation is the score -- the production looks and sounds smashing."

David H. Bell, who won the Helen Hayes Award for Best Director for the 1994 revival of *Hot Mikado*, will direct and choreograph. Dan Proett will recreate his jazzed-up, neon-lit town of Titipu. David Kay Mickelson will design the brightly colored zoot suits and other 40s period costumes, and Diane Ferry Williams will recreate her beautiful lighting design.

Its Performance Schedule was to be March 13-June 2002, with tickets priced at \$27-\$43. Did anyone get to see this production? It sounds like it would really have been something. I haven't had a chance to check, but if you want to check on the show (or the theatre), the web address is www.fordstheatre.org. S/A Cole was rather peeved: her brother was in the DC area at this time, and absolutely refused to try to go see it. Well, you know what they say about jostling philistines.

Where Can it Be?

Gayden Wren's book, *A Most Ingenious Paradox*, has been published by Oxford University Press. It's been in print for some time now, and we expect to have more details about it later, but in the meantime, Stefan Vranka, of their Marketing division, says of it:

Most books written about Gilbert & Sullivan have focused on the authors rather than the works. With this detailed examination of all fourteen operas, Gayden Wren fills this void. His bold thesis finds the key to the operas' longevity, not in the clever lyrics, witty dialogue, or catchy music, but in their timeless themes, which speak to audiences as powerfully now as they did the first time the operas were performed. This volume is essential reading for any devotee of these enchanting works, or indeed for anyone who loves musical theater.

So now you know what else to look for the next time you go to the bookstore. (By the way, don't confuse this book with the annotated G&S bibliography *How Quaint the Ways of Paradox*, by Philip Dillard, which Scarecrow Press published, as I did.)

The Ohio Light Opera has a line of CDs available of past noteworthy productions. According to their website, “If you would like to make a purchase please place an order by calling (330) 263-2329, faxing (330) 263-2272, or emailing sfinley@wooster.edu.” So far, my experience has been that calling the order in gives the best results.

The recordings they are offering are:

The Arcadians :\$30.00/2 CDs

The Bayadere : \$30.00/2 CDs

The Chocolate Soldier :\$30.00/2 CDs

Eileen :\$30.00/2 CDs

Naughty Marietta :\$30.00/2 CDs

A Night In Venice :\$30.00/2 CDs

Princess Ida : \$30.00/2 CDs

The Red Mill : \$30.00/2 CDs (And if you’re looking for a recording of this work, as I was earlier this year, this appears to be the only place you can get one!)

Utopia Limited :\$30.00/2 CDs

La Verbena de la Paloma: \$15.00

Veronique : \$30.00/2 CDs

Ohio Light Opera Festival Encores Volume

VII: (Cassette / \$3.00) **Gilbert & Sullivan Highlights** ('93 - '95). Selections from Ruddigore, Princess Ida, Utopia Limited, The Mikado, & The Grand Duke.

Ohio Light Opera Festival Encores Volume V:

(Cassette / \$3.00) Viennese & French Operetta. Highlights from the '90 & '91 Ohio Light Opera Seasons. Selections from A Night In Venice, The Beautiful Galathea, The Land of Smiles, L'Etoile, Ciboulette, & Orpheus in the Underworld.

Ohio Light Opera Festival Encores Volume VI:

(Cassette / \$3.00) Highlights from the '92 & '93 Ohio Light Opera Seasons. Selections from Wiener Blut, Die Fledermaus, Der Vogelhandler, The Brigands, La Perichole, & Tom Jones.

Ohio Light Opera's 1988 production of Fra Diavolo

(Cassette / \$3.00) Music by Daniel Auber with libretto by Eugene Scribe & translation by James Stuart.

You might want to phone first for an estimate: shipping may be extra. They also have a selection of notecards, tee shirts, mugs, and such that you might want to take a look at too. The OLO website is at http://www.wooster.edu/OH_LT_OPERA/ . Just click on the Gift Shop link.

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Nova Scotia is celebrating its 25th anniversary by sponsoring several activities, as described elsewhere, throughout the year. One of these projects is the sale of G&S Hasti Notes.

Great G&S Hasti Notes (The pictures can be seen on a link off of the Society’s web page: <http://www.gandsnovascotia.ca/> . The pictures look very nice.)

2 each from The Gondoliers, The Mikado, Patience and Yeomen of the Guard
Blank inside, 8 matching envelopes
\$6.00 (Canadian) per pack of 8 plus shipping; no tax *If ordering from the US or elsewhere, please remit in Canadian dollars.*

| Packs | Canada | US Surface | US Air |
|-------|--------|------------|---------|
| 1-2 | \$2.00 | \$3.50 | \$5.25 |
| 3-5 | \$3.60 | \$5.00 | \$6.00 |
| 6-12 | \$7.25 | \$8.00 | \$10.50 |

Mail Order Form (You can copy this one, or make a facsimile)

| | |
|--|----|
| Please send _____ pack(s) at \$6.00 per pack | \$ |
| Shipping (see above) | \$ |
| TOTAL | \$ |

Shipping Address

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| Name |
| Address |
| City/State |
| Postal/Zip Code |
| Telephone |

Mailing address for cheque or money order:

Hasti Notes

Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Nova Scotia

Box 3136

Halifax, NS B3K 5Z1

The Truth is Found

It is sometimes a curse to type fast. Don’ t ask me how it happened – misplaced keystrokes, no doubt – but a page of the 2000 Big Quiz answers vanished between the typing and the insertion into the *Nonsense*. Happily, S/A Cole still had the quiz sheets, which is important since several of the questions were subjective ones, so here is what was left out:

- Name an incident that you experienced, or that you heard of, that reminded you of an incident in a Gilbert and Sullivan opera. **One entrant mentioned an item in the local paper about some people being bothered by a rooster crowing. The crower turned out to be an accomplished hen. (Princess Ida may be recruiting her!) Another mentioned the recent attempts to reorganize the British House of Peers: it sounded like the Earl of Mountarat’s fears about opening the Peerage to competitive examination were about to come true. Another pointed out that sad incident a couple of years ago in which families found out that their daughters had been accidentally switched at birth. In this case, no baby-farmer or nurse came clean, but the error was discovered after one of the girls and one of the mothers had died, and it was discovered that the surviving child didn’t have her “father’s” DNA. The uncertainty**

over which of two men would be the next president of the United States reminded another of the situation in *the Gondoliers* (though he points out the situation in the opera was settled more amicably). And S/A Cole had quite a time trying to explain to one of the local sheriff departments' training officers, whose last name happens to be "Orphan", what was so hysterically funny about asking him if he often knows what it is to be an Orphan.

(And since the quiz answers came in, I had another one that's too good to keep. Does anyone here remember the 1960s Japanese cartoon series "Eight" or "Eighth Man"? I only vaguely remembered it, but, as I recall, it was basically about some poor fellow who had been made into a robot (after he had been killed) and resented it. Well! My brother recently found a (remarkably thorough) web page from Australia that described a lot of the anime series of that time, including *Eighth Man*. When I e-mailed the man who had performed the voice of Eighth Man about how good he must have been (and, to digress, he *must* have been, if, after thirty years, I still remember the character!), he responded that, although it wasn't Gilbert and Sullivan, there was something about that program [that people remembered and liked]. (By the way, my e-mail "signature" is for the Midwestern Gilbert and Sullivan Society—that's how he knew.) It dawned on *me* that he was right: it *wasn't* Gilbert and Sullivan, it was Gilbert and Cellier! Nita and Bartolo's situation in *The Mountebanks*, when they were turned into automata (let's not mince words: Robots) was similar to that of that poor fellow who became Eighth Man! And they didn't like it, either; but what had them upset was the cheapness of their clockworks and the outcome of Hamlet's and Ophelia's romance. By the way, if you want the link to the anime site, I'll be glad to send it to you. But isn't it scary just how up-to-date W.S. Gilbert's ideas are? It took Japan about 70 years to catch up with him! Say! If anyone is looking for a topic for an exploratory essay, elements of science fiction in Gilbert's work, would no doubt be an entertaining one.)

13. In which opera does someone complain that old age takes away too much, yet brings too much? **In *Patience*, Lady Jane sings how little will be left of her, and yet there will be too much of her, in the coming by-and-by. Oh, I know what she means!**
14. Name the Gilbert and Sullivan operas that have ironic subtitles, and explain your answer. **Suggestions included *The Pirates of Penzance (The Slave of Duty)*: Frederic carries his devotion to duty to the extreme of sacrificing his future father-in-law to it), *Patience (Bunthorne's Bride)*: he doesn't have one), *Yeomen (The Merryman and His Maid)*: for the same reason, in that, unlike the characters in the song, the merryman does not live in the love of a lady), *Utopia Limited (The Flowers of Progress)*, who end up nearly destroying the place), *Thespis (The Gods Grow Old)*, in that immortal beings shouldn't be growing old), and *Gondoliers (The King of Barataria)*: neither gondolier becomes king).**
15. In how many of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas are the tenor and soprano leads married by the end of it? **They are married in four of them (*Aline and Alexis***

in *Sorcerer* are discounted, since they are only formally betrothed, not completely married).

16. Prove your answer for the last question by listing them. ***Princess Ida* (Hilarion and Ida are married before the action begins), *Mikado* (Nanki-Poo and Yum-Yum are married in the Second Act), *Yeomen* (A first-act marriage for Elsie and Fairfax), and *Gondoliers* (Two in this one: Casilda and Luiz were married in infancy, and Marco and Gianetta – another first-act wedding). Arguably, Sparkeion and Nicemis in *Thespis* might qualify, but there is occasionally some question as to whether they are a tenor/soprano pair.**
17. As kindly as possible, describe the worst *miscasting* you have ever seen in a Gilbert and Sullivan opera. **The Brent Walker G&S Videos take it on the chin in these answers. Frankie Howerd as Sir Joseph Porter got three votes (one described the performance as only slightly worse than Peter Marshall's Captain Corcoran), and Joel Grey's Jack Point got one vote (though the respondent points out there were worse performances that he's been spared, the problem here was the casting).**
18. What is Reginald Bunthorne's love of maidens compared to? **The love of maidens is, to him, as interesting as the taxes. (Would that it were, he pays his taxes and cherishes the receipts, as Lady Saphir goes on to explain.)**
19. How old was Patience when she first knew Archibald Grosvenor? **Patience admits to being a tiny babe of Four.**

And now we're all caught up, just in time to start on the NEXT quiz!

Let the Welkin Ring with the News

In August, we heard from Jim Farron about **the D'Oyly Carte Who Was Who Web Site**, which had been added to the G&S Archive website. Some of us have already found it, but for those of us who have not, Jim Farron wrote:

We have a major new addition to the G&S Archive -- **Dave Stone's D'Oyly Carte Who Was Who site**. Dave has been working on this for many years, and was originally going to publish it as a book until I convinced him that the Archive would be a better location for it. You can see it at <http://diamond.boisestate.edu/gas/whowaswho/index.htm>. It contains about 900 biographies and over 600 pictures of the performers, and is a major triumph of scholarship. Dave will be expanding it and updating it on a regular basis.

This is indeed good news! And, by the way, "Visit the Gilbert and Sullivan Archive: The Premiere Internet Light Opera Site <http://diamond.boisestate.edu/gas>" (There's sure to be a link to the described site from this page.)

As for recent Bizarre news that sound like something W.S.

Gilbert might have had some fun with, S/A Cole noticed the following headlines.

Man dead for 2 years granted divorce (Scripps Howard News Service / COVINGTON, Ky. (May 30, 2002 11:54 a.m. EDT). You might be able to find this story on the web at:

<http://www.nandotimes.com/nation/story/418700p-3338091c.html>. We trust Sir Roderic Murgatroyd will never need this precedent, but according to the story, the man died while his wife was in the process of filing for divorce. He had disinherited her, but Kentucky law prevents spouses from being disinherited, so the widow was trying to claim his whole estate. With the divorce decree (which the article notes will be appealed), the now ex-widow can only claim half the estate, as an ex-wife. It'll be interesting to see how this all comes out.

And this one *sounds* funny, but in fact isn't any funnier than the fall of Rothschild's bank.

Quinn, Andrew. **ABCNEWS.com : Tonga Sues Court Jester for Millions** [Web Page]. June 6, 2002; Accessed June 6, 2002. Available at:

<http://www.abcnews.go.com/sections/world/DailyNews/tonga020606.html>. According to the story, a former U.S. investment banker who had been a friend of the King of Tonga, is accused of defrauding the nation out of half their annual revenue. The investments he had chosen for the money, which previously had been lying around in low-interest checking accounts, didn't work out, and so now Tonga is seeking restitution and damages. The "jester" part comes in because the investment banker had apparently asked for, and received, an appointment as "court jester". (I can't help but recall that old adage, "A fool and his money are soon parted.") As Jack Point might have remarked, "they don't blame you as long as you're funny", or in this case, profitable.

Okay! It doesn't look like we're going to be able to beat the postal increase this year, but we'll our best to come close. So this is what we need from you:

- 1.) Quiz Questions [and answers!]. Maybe you've had some answers about G&S you've been dying to give. Make up some questions about them. Quizmaster Arthur Robinson has been backed up with work, and hasn't been able to give the quiz the attention he would like, so let's help him out this time around.
- 2.) Production News. If your group is putting on a show, or has any news of interest to the whole group, E-Mail Me! (It does save retyping!) In March, we finally got *my* computer hooked up to the Internet, so there will be no more losing disks and files between two computers. The address is MidwestGS@CBCast.com (and MidwestGS@yahoo.com also works).
- 3.) Articles, the e-mailing of which is also appreciated!

The *Nonsense* is only as good as we make it, and now that the brush is bundled, and the flooring is in the back bedroom, maybe S/A Cole will have time to make it better. Please do keep in touch, and I'll look forward to hearing from you!

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